



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION**  
**PO Box 45536 • Olympia WA 98504-5536**  
**ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**PO Box 45445 • Olympia WA 98504-5440**

February 5, 2004

**TO:** Regional Administrators  
CSO Administrators  
Regional Financial Coordinators  
Financial Supervisors  
Financial Staff

**FROM:** Steven Wish, Director  
Division of Customer Support  
Medical Assistance Administration

Georgiann DeKay, Acting Director  
Division of Management and Operations Support  
Economic Services Administration

**SUBJECT: ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL (AEM) CHANGES**

**Background:** In 2003, Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) changed the administrative policies of the AEM program and denied individuals with cancer for the AEM program.

**MAA Action:** Upon further review of AEM administrative policies, MAA is amending the criteria for the determination of the existence of an emergent medical condition for individuals with a diagnosis of cancer. MAA has revised the AEM chapter of the EAZ manual (see link below).

[http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/esa/eazmanual/Sections/EA\\_AlienMedical.htm](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/esa/eazmanual/Sections/EA_AlienMedical.htm)

The changes in the Worker Responsibilities Section are as follows:

- The list of medical conditions (assumed to meet the emergent medical condition criteria) includes, "*Cancer, requiring surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy.*"
- #2 notes an exception, for a person with a diagnosis of cancer, to the requirement that the person must have received recent hospital-based services.
- #3 adds, for clarification, the time frames workers can expect a response after a referral to the MAA medical consultants.

**CSO/CSC Actions:**

1. When you determine a person is financially and categorically eligible for the AEM program, you no longer refer a person with a diagnosis of cancer to the MAA medical consultants. You must only obtain a recent physician's statement verifying the diagnosis of cancer requiring surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy.
2. If you have a Fair Hearing pending, based on a determination that cancer did not represent an emergent medical condition, resolve those hearings by approving the individual for AEM if appropriate.

**Additional Information:**

MAA is taking steps to identify clients with a diagnosis of cancer that have been denied AEM based on a determination that cancer did not represent an emergent medical condition.

Upon identification of such clients, MAA, in conjunction with the Community Services Division, will take steps to approve such individuals for AEM coverage.

If you have any further questions; please contact your MAA regional representative:

Region	Representative	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Region 1	Wendy Forslin	360-725-1434	<a href="mailto:forslwc@dshs.wa.gov">forslwc@dshs.wa.gov</a>
Region 2	Judy Cook	360-725-1324	<a href="mailto:cookjr@dshs.wa.gov">cookjr@dshs.wa.gov</a>
Region 3	Stephen Kozak	360-725-1321	<a href="mailto:kozaksj@dshs.wa.gov">kozaksj@dshs.wa.gov</a>
Region 4	Joanie Scotson	360-725-1330	<a href="mailto:scotsjk@dshs.wa.gov">scotsjk@dshs.wa.gov</a>
Region 5	Mary Beth Ingram	360-725-1327	<a href="mailto:ingramb@dshs.wa.gov">ingramb@dshs.wa.gov</a>
Region 6	Mary Wood	360-725-1329	<a href="mailto:woodme@dshs.wa.gov">woodme@dshs.wa.gov</a>

cc: Doug Porter, Medical Assistance Administration  
Deb Bingaman, Economic Services Administration  
Luisa McEachern, Community Services Division  
Dr. Jeffery Thompson, MAA Medical Director

Regional Administrators, et al.

February 5, 2004

Page 3

bcc: Eligibility Policy and Community Education Section  
Manning Pellanda, MEDS